

# Further restrictions confirmed in parts of the North East and North West in response to rising infection rates

- Residents will be restricted by law from mixing with people outside their household in any indoor setting
- Bolton will be brought in line with measures in Greater Manchester

In close discussions with local leaders, the Health and Social Care Secretary, NHS Test and Trace, the Joint Biosecurity Centre (JBC), Public Health England (PHE) and the Chief Medical Officer for England have agreed to strengthen local measures in parts of the North East and North West.

Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Halton, Liverpool City Region, (Liverpool, Knowsley, Sefton, St Helens, the Wirral) and Warrington will be brought in line with the latest measures announced on Monday for Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, Northumberland and Sunderland in the North East.

From midnight on Saturday 3 October, residents in the Liverpool City Region, Halton, Warrington, Hartlepool and Middlesbrough must not meet anyone outside their household or bubble in any indoor setting, including private homes and gardens. These measures will be enforceable by law and subject to fines. It comes as incidence rates in Liverpool, St Helens, Knowsley, Halton and Warrington are above 170 per 100,000.

We also recommend that people do not meet with anyone outside their household or bubble in outdoor public spaces, such as parks and outdoor hospitality.

Alongside these measures, £7 million of funding will be provided to these local authorities to support them with their vital work.

Schools and COVID-secure settings are not affected and remain open. Residents in these areas are also advised to only travel for essential reasons, such as going to work, or school and are encouraged to walk or cycle where possible.

Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock said:

Our strategy is to suppress the virus, protecting the economy, education and the NHS, until a vaccine can make us safe.

I understand how much of an imposition these new measures are. I want rules like this to stay in place for as short a time as possible. I am sure we all do.

The more people follow the rules and reduce their social contact, the quicker we can get Liverpool, and the North East, back on their feet.

In addition, from midnight on Saturday 3 October, Bolton will be brought in line with measures in place throughout the rest of Greater Manchester as case rates have fallen. This means hospitality businesses including bars, pubs, cafes, restaurants can resume table service subject to early 10pm closure and the rule of 6 restrictions.

Bowling alleys, indoor skating rinks, casinos, indoor play, including soft play and conference centres and exhibit halls will also be able to reopen in Bolton. Previous advice against restarting indoor theatrical or concert performances will no longer apply. Restrictions on attending weddings, wedding receptions and funerals will be brought in line with the rest of Greater Manchester and the country.

PHE, the JBC and NHS Test and Trace constantly monitor the levels of infection and other data on prevalence of the virus across the country. The government is prepared to take immediate action should the epidemiological evidence show that further measures are required. Restrictions will only apply for as long as they are necessary to cut transmission of the virus and protect local communities.

As announced previously, [childcare bubbles will be able to form in areas of intervention](#) to allow families to share caring responsibilities with another household, as long as they are consistent. This includes formal and informal childcare arrangements.

## **Changes to the watchlist**

### **North West**

- Barrow-in-Furness added as an area of concern
- Cheshire West and Chester added as an area of concern
- Cheshire East added as an area of concern

### **West Yorkshire**

- Wakefield added as an area of concern

### **South Yorkshire**

- Sheffield escalated to an area of enhanced support
- Rotherham added as an area of concern

### **East Midlands**

- Blaby de-escalated to an area of concern

### **North East**

- Hartlepool and Middlesbrough added to areas of intervention

### **South east**

- Spelthorne removed from the watchlist

## East England

- Hertsmere removed from the watchlist
- Luton added as an area of concern

## Background information

Liverpool City Region includes Liverpool, Knowsley, Sefton, St. Helens, Wirral.

From midnight on Saturday 3 October, residents in Liverpool City Region, Halton, Warrington, Hartlepool and Middlesbrough must not meet anyone outside their household or bubble in any setting, except outdoor public spaces, such as parks and outdoor hospitality.

This builds on measures already in place restricting residents from mixing with other households in private homes or gardens in the Liverpool City Region and Warrington. See the full [surveillance report](#) which includes this week's watchlist and what the different categorisations mean.

The 3 definitions for JBC and PHE's watchlist are:

- areas of concern
- areas of enhanced support
- areas of intervention

For 'areas of concern', upper-tier local authorities (UTLAs) will work with partners, supported by regional PHE and NHS Test and Trace resource, to take additional actions to manage outbreaks and reduce community spread of the virus to more normal levels. Actions taken may include additional targeted testing at high risk areas or groups, for example care homes, enhanced communications around the importance of social distancing, hand hygiene and other preventative measures, and more detailed epidemiological work to understand where clusters of the virus are occurring so that appropriate action can be taken.

On top of this, areas deemed for 'enhanced support' will be provided with increased national support, capacity and oversight, including additional resources deployed to augment the local teams where this is necessary. Actions taken may include significant additional widespread testing deployed to the UTLAs, national support for local recommendations put in place to manage outbreaks, and detailed engagement with high risk groups and sectors to help increase the effectiveness of testing and tracing in these areas.

In addition, 'areas of intervention' are defined where there is divergence from the lockdown measures in place in the rest of England because of the significance of the spread of COVID-19. There are a range of non-pharmaceutical interventions available to local and national leaders, from extensive communications, expanded testing, to restrictions on businesses and gatherings

See the [Contain Framework](#) for more information.

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# Civil news: opportunity to bid for telephone advice contracts

News story

Tender opportunity for Civil Legal Advice (CLA) specialist telephone advice services in education and discrimination.



A tender is opening on 1 October 2020 for specialist telephone advice contracts in education and discrimination.

The tender is open to any interested party that can meet the minimum tender requirements.

We are seeking to award:

- 3 discrimination contracts each delivering a third of the service
- 3 education contracts – one larger contract for 60% of the service and two smaller contracts, each for 20% of the service

## **Timescales**

The deadline for submitting tenders is 9am on 5 November 2020.

Services under the new contracts will begin on 1 April 2021.

## **Where can I find out more?**

Detailed information on the tender is available in the 'Information for Applicants' document on our tender pages.

## Further information

[Specialist telephone advice in education and discrimination from April 2021](#) – to find out more and download the Information For Applicants document

[e-Tendering system](#) – to submit your tender

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## [New remote education support for schools, colleges and teachers](#)

Schools, colleges, teachers and pupils across England will benefit from new remote education support to help children learn at home if they have to self-isolate, the Education Secretary has announced today (1 October).

The new support includes an additional 100,000 laptops to be made available for those children most in need if they're required to learn at home, as well as expanding the EdTech Demonstrator programme to ensure schools and teachers are able to make best use of technology available to them to enhance the at-home learning given to their pupils.

The Government has also today published a Temporary Continuity Direction, regarding the provision of remote education in schools, under the Coronavirus Act 2020. The Direction means schools have a duty to provide education to children at home, as they do when children are in the classroom.

Thanks to the hard work of teachers and staff, and the collective effort of parents, over seven million children and young people returned to the classroom in September. The Direction will help provide assurances to both pupils and parents that if pupils have to self-isolate at home their education will not be disrupted.

In the event of a confirmed case, schools are following the necessary guidance, including requiring small groups of children to self-isolate. In these cases, continuing to provide education is an absolute necessity. The Direction helps ensure this and sets a clear expectation on the high-quality education they should receive.

Education Secretary Gavin Williamson said:

The best place for children and young people to learn is in the classroom, which is why we made it a national priority to get all pupils back into schools and colleges full-time, and why I have been so pleased to see millions of them returning over the past few

weeks.

We have also, as we would expect, seen small numbers of students self-isolating in line with public health advice. It's vital these students have access to high quality and consistent remote education.

I know that through the incredible hard work of our teachers and staff, pupils will continue to receive the education they deserve through this academic year, whatever the circumstances, and I will do everything I can to support our schools, colleges and young people in making sure that's the case.

To support schools and colleges, the Government has added 100,000 laptops to the reserve of 150,000 already made available, and the 220,000 already delivered to those pupils most in need so they can continue their education.

The extra devices will be available to support: disadvantaged children in Years 3-11 who do not already have access to a device; disadvantaged, clinically extremely vulnerable children of all year groups who are unable to return to school, and children in all year groups unable to access remote education whilst attending a hospital school.

Over £1m of additional funding will also be invested in expanding the EdTech Demonstrator programme, a network of schools and colleges that provide peer-to-peer support to help teachers and support workers use technology as effectively as possible.

The EdTech Demonstrator programme, which currently has capacity to provide bespoke one to one support to 3,400 schools and colleges, will be expanded to support a further 1,000. The existing network of Demonstrators will grow to 50 schools and colleges, supported by £1.5m of additional funding.

In total, the programme has already provided support to over 6,000 schools and colleges through webinars, tutorials, and bespoke one to one support to school staff.

New resources for staff, including a good practice guide and school-led webinars, will also be made available. This is in addition to the video lessons offered by the sector-led Oak National Academy, into which the Government is investing £4.84m, and other providers of quality education resources.

The package will also see 80 grants of £1,000 to Further Education (FE) providers across England, providing additional training and support for mentors and coaches specialising in assisting teachers with remote education.

Schools that are accessing free devices or that are newly set up on an education digital platform, are encouraged to access the funded support available through the EdTech Demonstrator programme.

Recent attendance statistics show that 99.8% of state-funded schools were

open on 24 September, with the overwhelming majority of children and young people continuing their education with minimal disruption.

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## [Hammersmith Bridge Taskforce meeting, 1 October 2020](#)

News story

Joint statement on progress made by the taskforce at their meeting on Thursday 1 October 2020.



The third meeting of the Hammersmith Bridge Taskforce was held today (1 October 2020). Attendees included representatives from the London Boroughs of Hammersmith and Fulham and Richmond upon Thames, the Greater London Authority, TfL, the Port of London Authority, Dana Skelley and Baroness Vere.

Dana Skelley, speaking on behalf of the Hammersmith Bridge Taskforce group, said:

The taskforce has made significant progress on the next steps for the Hammersmith Bridge. In particular, the taskforce agreed a ferry service across the river would be the preferred transport solution to deliver a crossing for residents in the short-term and we are working quickly to have a service in place by early next year.

All other potential solutions, including a temporary bridge, remain under consideration to ensure the fastest possible resolution for those impacted by the closure of the bridge. TfL also continues to keep the enhanced local bus services under review to respond to changing demands. The taskforce fully understands the complexity of the issues surrounding the pathway to a long-term solution.

To add to the team of leading experts providing advice to the

group, Cambridge Professor and mechanics and materials expert, Norman Fleck, has also been engaged to support the work. Norman will join next week's taskforce meetings.

Work will now continue to urgently progress the temporary transport plans, and other work related to the bridge and river closure, with the taskforce due to reconvene next week where funding options will be discussed.

The Hammersmith Bridge Taskforce was set up by the Department for Transport in September 2020 to work towards safely reopening the Hammersmith Bridge. The taskforce is chaired by Baroness Vere and includes representatives from TfL, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, Network Rail, the Greater London Authority and the Port of London Authority.

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## [UN Human Rights Council 45: Statement for the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Cambodia](#)

World news story

The UK statement delivered during the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Cambodia.



The Human Rights Council takes place in Geneva.

Madam President,



We thank the Special Rapporteur for her report.

We welcome Cambodia's attendance at this session and timely submission of their human rights reports. We support the statement by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on 11th September which called for Cambodia to end intimidation and use of force against civil society actors and peaceful protesters.

Freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association are vital for the enjoyment of the full range of human rights. We are concerned about repeated arrests and intimidation of those seeking to be part of a public discourse about the future of Cambodia and the increasing atmosphere of fear amongst those wishing to air their legitimate views on Cambodia's future. We are concerned that recent arrests of opposition supporters threaten broad-based political participation at upcoming local and national elections in 2022 and 2023.

We urge the Royal Government of Cambodia to embrace dialogue to work with civil society, the political opposition and the people of Cambodia. The United Kingdom stands ready to support genuine attempts to do this.

Whilst we acknowledge small steps taken by the Cambodian Government to broaden engagement with Cambodian communities since the 2018 election, we would welcome the Special Rapporteur's views on what further steps she believes the Government needs to take to ensure greater, and fairer, political participation in Cambodia.

Thank you.

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